

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2656

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, RP

SUBJECT: EFFECT ON GOP OF CHANGING LEGISLATION GOVERNING
ATTENDANCE AT US SERVICE ACADEMIES

REF: STATE 094470

1. IN PRINCIPLE, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO GENERALIZING
BASIS ON WHICH FOREIGN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE IN U.S.
SERVICE ACADEMIES, OR TO EXPOSING THEM TO COSTS FOR SUCH
PARTICIPATION.

2. SPECIFIC EFFECT ON PHILIPPINES, HOWEVER, IS LIKELY
TO BE RATHER STIFF. GOP HAS TRADITIONALLY SENT ONE
CAREFULLY SELECTED CADET TO EACH OF OUR FOUR SERVICE
ACADEMIES. COMPETITION IS KEEN, GOOD MEN ARE CHOSEN
AND THE RESULTS SHOW IN LATER SERVICE. MAJOR GENERAL
RAMOS, PROBABLY NEXT CHIEF OF STAFF, IS OUR BEST
CURRENT EXAMPLE OF VALUE OF PROGRAM FOR U.S. NATIONAL
INTERESTS. APPLYING FULL UTITION COSTS TO PHILIPPINES
WILL UNQUESTIONABLY HELP OUR BUDGET TO SOME DEGREE BUT
IT IS AT EXPENSE OF LONG-RUN OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE
BECOMING INCREASINGLY VALUABLE TO US AS MARTIAL LAW CON-
TINUES AND AFP TAKES ON INCREASINGLY LARGER ROLE. IF
WE CONNOT PREVENT CHANGE FROM GOING THROUGH, WE W
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URGE THAT WE CUSHIONIDLORYBVWXFMIWY Q

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FROM DOD THAT IT WILL GRANT PHILIPPINES WAIVER ASSIS-
TANCE OVER NEXT FEW YEARS TO CUSHION SHOCK; (2) THAT WE
ATTEMPT TO ENSURE CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR AFP PARTICIPATION
IN OTHER MILITARY TRAINING.

3. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TIMING OMB AND CONGRESS HAVE IN
MIND BUT INTRODUCTION OF BILL AT THIS TIME, AND PARTI-
CULARLY ITS APPLICATION TO UPCOMING ACADEMY SCHOOL YEAR,
WOULD HAVE DISTINCTLY CHILLING IMPACT. OUR DAO ALREADY
IN PROCESS HELPING GOP PREPARE, SCREEN AND SUBMIT THE
22 NOMINEES FOR THE 4 SLOTS AT ACADEMIES' SESSION
BEGINNING THIS YEAR AND INTRODUCTION OF LAW APPLICABLE
TO THEM WOULD HAVE TO BE VIEWED AS ADDING INSULT TO
INJURY. WE SUSPECT OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE SIMILAR
PROBLEM. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE ARE ALSO ATTEMPTING TO
GET GENERAL RAMOS OFF TO WEST POINT RE-UNION NEXT MONTH.
THESE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WOULD INEVITABLY GET TANGLED UP
IN MORE GENERAL MALAISE THAT WE ARE NOW EXPERIENCING WITH
GOP OVER SECURITY RELATIONS. IN ORDER TO AVOID EXACER-
BATING OUR DIFFICULTIES WITH GOP AT THIS POINT IN TIME,
WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT EXPLAIN ABOVE FACTS TO OMB AND
GET THEM TO HOLD OFF FOR FEW MONTHS AND IN ANY EVENT TO
MAKE SURE THAT ANY PROPOSAL NOT APPLY TO CURRENT CROP
OF POTENTIAL CADETS.
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